

# Beedi business owner, tobacco panel member Shyama Charan Gupta questions cancer link

Hindustan Times | By [K Sandeep Kumar](#) , Allahabad

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BJP MP from Allahabad Shyama Charan Gupta is in midst of a controversy over comments made by him to back his argument that the tobacco industry was being unfairly targeted by a powerful lobby in India.



BJP-MP-from-Allahabad-Shyam-Charan-Gupta-PTI-photo

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The MP, who owns the 350-crore Shyam Group of Industries of which Shyam Bidi Works is an integral and vital part of 11 ventures owned by the group, had recently questioned “Why cannot doctors explain why chain smokers do not get cancer?" and maintained that "Sugar is also harmful and causes diabetes, but no one can stop that” in his defense of the trade in tobacco products.

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These comments came while the MP was being questioned by TV channels in wake of a parliamentary committee

headed by BJP MP from Ahmednagar Dilip Gandhi and having Shyama Charan Gupta as one of its members, delaying plans of the Centre to enforce bigger health warnings on cigarette packets by saying it wanted more time to study the issue.

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The 15-member committee, which had included eight from BJP, had made a case for the bidi industry. But it is said to have failed to speak to health experts but taken views of tobacco lobby representatives before seeking more time.

Gupta, whose Shyam Bidi Works is one of the largest bidi manufacturers in the country and has been running since 1973, has on news channels, denied a conflict of interest by serving on a committee that has given the tobacco industry a big breather and even said that beedis were less harmful than cigarettes.

Though earlier he is reported to have also queried as to "Why are we working under WHO (World Health Organization) pressure?" and even invoked Narendra Modi's 'Make-in India campaign' to defend his stand, the MP seemed to downplay his comments later on Thursday in wake of the controversy that his and Gandhi's comments have generated.

"It is an unnecessary controversy. All I have tried to put across is the fact that lakhs of poor workers are involved in the bidi making trade and depend on it for their survival. Bidis are also known to be less harmful than cigarettes. We need to re-examine the issue and some time should be taken to look into all aspects in detail, including possible role of lobbyists trying to undermine bread and butter of lakhs of poor people who survive through this trade," he said.

Interestingly this is the second controversy over his comments to hit Gupta as just a few days ago he had attracted ire of many organizations and political parties, especially the Samajwadi Party, for objectionable comments made against girls of a minority community during a ceremony at Bhuipara village of Meja block in Allahabad. Later, however, he had denied making any such comments.

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Rachel Brosnahan calls out actors for criticizing their own superhero films: ‘Do it or don't do it’

By [HT US Desk](#)

Jun 18, 2025 12:30 AM IST

Superman star Rachel Brosnahan condemns actors who “complain” about their own superhero films





File photo of Rachel Brosnahan(REUTERS)

[Rachel Brosnahan](#) is stepping into the superhero universe this summer. She is all set to play Lois Lane in the upcoming Superman film. While some actors have been known to criticize their superhero roles, Brosnahan has made it clear she would not be one of them.

In a candid exchange with Amanda Seyfried for Interview magazine, the actress addressed the trend of actors disowning their involvement with comic book blockbusters after release.

“I don’t know why people say yes [to a project] only to then turn around and complain about it,” Rachel Brosnahan said. “Look, I don’t want to s\*it on other actors, but there was a minute where it was cool to not like superhero movies and to look back on projects like this and pooh-pooh them. Do it or don’t do it, and then stand by it.”

Though the actress refrained from naming anyone, her words appeared to touch on the growing number of stars who have recently taken a step back from, or publicly critiqued, their own superhero ventures.

#### James Gunn's Superman: Release date and cast

The upcoming Superman movie, directed by [James Gunn](#), follows Superman as he tries to balance his alien roots with his life on Earth and his human family.

Along with Rachel Brosnahan, the film stars [David Corenswet](#) as Clark Kent, also known as Superman. Nicholas Hoult, Edi Gathegi, Anthony Carrigan, Nathan Fillion and Isabela Merced are also part of the project. The film will hit cinema screens on July 11.

ALSO READ: [Superman director James Gunn blames Disney for the decline of Marvel, says: ‘It wasn’t right. And it killed them..’](#)

#### A look back at the Superman franchise

The Superman franchise is one of the most iconic in superhero history. Created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, Superman first appeared in Action Comics #1 in 1938. Raised

on Earth as Clark Kent, Superman is a powerful alien from the planet Krypton.

The franchise has since spanned comic books, TV shows, animated series and blockbuster films. From Christopher Reeve’s OG role to Henry Cavill’s Man of Steel, Superman has inspired generations.

FAQs:

1. Who is playing Lois Lane in the new Superman movie?

Rachel Brosnahan is playing Lois Lane in the upcoming Superman film.

2. What is the release date of the upcoming Superman film?

The new Superman movie, directed by James Gunn, will be released on July 11.

3. What is the story of the new Superman movie?

The movie shows Superman trying to balance his Kryptonian heritage with his human life on Earth.

4. Who else is in the cast of the upcoming Superman film?

The cast includes David Corenswet as Clark Kent, along with Nicholas Hoult, Edi Gathegi, Anthony Carrigan, Nathan Fillion and Isabela Merced.



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